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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,337	01/31/2001	Anil K. Singhani	FIS9-2000-0281	5977

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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/773,337

Applicant(s)

SINGHANI ET AL.

Examiner

Brandon Hoffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are pending in this office action.

Rejections

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,606) in view of Zey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,275).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Starr teaches a process/data processing system for managing business, technical and operational data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet comprising the steps of:

- Providing a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a registered user or not (col. 10, lines 13-21);

- Determining whether a guest is a registered user from input by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web userid/password that enables them to **obtain user-level registration** for any of global procurement applications available under the supplier portal (col. 10, lines 21-28);
- When a guest obtains a Web userid/password in GR, storing guest information in a GR data store (col. 10, lines 28-30);
- Determining whether any applications have been authorized for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted applications in a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle (col. 10, lines 30-47);
- Accessing information from the GR data store to automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications get approved (col. 10, line 47 through col. 11, line 11);
- Determining whether approval is needed for a requested application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator (col. 11, lines 12-35); and
- Storing links to all applications for which the guest is approved, these links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home page which displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest has been registered and authorized (col. 10, lines 4-12).

Starr does not teach sending a request **by e-mail** for approval.

Zey et al. teaches sending a request **by e-mail** for approval (col. 8, lines 23-37).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine sending a request by e-mail for approval, as taught by Zey et al., with the process/system of Starr. It would have been obvious for such modifications because sending e-mail to the subscriber by the administrator for approval properly notifies the subscriber of their rights (approved/denied) for a particular application. Using e-mail provides an automated and fast method for reaching the subscriber.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Starr in view of Zey et al. teaches further comprising the steps of:

- Defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get authorized to access an application (see col. 9, lines 20-30 of Starr);
- Logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's userid/password once for each session, as long as applications requested by the guest are in a same realm (see col. 8, lines 37-65 of Starr); and
- Invoking by a logged in guest any of their approved applications by simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized home page (see col. 8, lines 21-25 of Starr).

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Regarding claim 3, the combination of Starr in view of Zey et al. teaches wherein the approval cycles are customizable for each application (see col. 9, lines 26-30 of Starr).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Starr in view of Zey et al. teaches wherein the approval cycles are defined for a section of an application, providing a finer level of access control (see col. 9, lines 22-26 of Starr).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Starr in view of Zey et al. teaches wherein application specific registration fields are defined so that a registration form, unique to an application, is displayed when a user requests access to an application (see col. 8, lines 37-51 of Starr).

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner believes it to be inherent that guests may bookmark applications for later access (because web interfaces can be bookmarked), further comprising the step of prompting by an application a guest to enter their userid/password for authentication against data stored in the GR data store when the application is accessed using a bookmark (when a site is bookmarked that requires authentication, future accesses to the site will require re-authentication).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Hoffman whose telephone number is 571-272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brandon Hoff

BH

Ayaz Sheikh

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